

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 PM, April 16, 2013 – Centre Avenue School All Purpose Room
Preceded by a Presentation on State and Local Assessments
and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Kristin Ochtera; Linda Schmidt, Neil Schloth; John Giannotti, Jr.; Superintendent, Dr. Roseanne Melucci; and Director of Finance and Operations, Marcy Tannenbaum; District Clerk, Denise Lobascio; staff members and members of the community.

Absent: Patti Nicoletti

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 8:03 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Giannotti, Jr.
2. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the minutes of the March 19, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – February 2013
4. Correspondence - None
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the following items #1-7 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for an extension of a child rearing leave of absence of Dana Casas from her teaching assistant position, effective July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014 school year.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for an extension of a child rearing leave of absence of Jennifer Moore from her English teacher position, effective July 1, 2013, through January 31, 2014.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for a child rearing leave of absence of Francesca Lagnese from her special education teacher position, effective June 3, 2013, through January 31, 2014.

4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Carlos Amaya to the position of teacher aide for ALPSS, effective March 20, 2013, at the Step A hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for ALPSS for the 2012-2013 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Antoinette English to the position of monitor, effective April 17, 2013, at the Step 1 of the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitor Union contract for the 2012-2013 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2012-2013 school year:
 - a. Randi Bender-Murphy, short-term substitute school social worker, effective April 8, 2013, through June 21, 2013
 - b. Rafael Santiago, substitute monitor, ALPSS, effective April 17, 2013
 - c. Nickeisha Wilson, substitute teacher, effective April 17, 2013

Seasonal Cleaners, effective May 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013:

- d. Dania Ayala
 - e. Christopher Brockett
 - f. Lucia Castro
 - g. Francesco Florio
 - h. Christopher Griffith
 - i. Vincent Gross
 - j. Gina Hamsley
 - k. Carlos Mena
 - l. Michael Periera
 - m. Andrew Polizzi
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the continuation of the “emergency, conditional” personnel appointment for the following individuals pending receipt of notification of fingerprint clearance from the State of New York, Department of Education:
 - a. Rafael Santiago

B. Other

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Neil Schloth the following items #1-16 were unanimously approved:

1. Accept the following donations for the purpose of replacing instructional items lost and/or for the restoration of district facilities damaged in Hurricane Sandy:
 - a. \$1,000 from Rotan Community Scholars of the Roton Middle School, Norwalk, Connecticut
 - b. \$1,000.00 from the Booster Club for sod and athletic field restoration and increase budget code 1620-400-10-0466
 - c. \$1,031.16 from Polytechnic Institute of NYU for robotic supplies and increase budget code F213-2110-450-00-2012
 - d. Three 27" Essex Ceiling lighting fixtures from OCL Architectural Lighting for the auditorium lobby valued at approximately \$2,100.00
 - e. MG32/14FX-CA sound mixing console from Yamaha valued at \$1,499.00

2. WHEREAS, the District has been offered the donation of certain services and other valuable benefits by Rent the Runway, Inc. ("RTR") to be used towards the High School's Senior Prom, including the donation of dresses, tuxedo rentals, a celebrity music performance, DJ, decorations, photographer and college study help benefits; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the donation and hereby ratifies and approves the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the District and RTR relating to the foregoing offer and hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the MOU on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

3. Accept a \$4,500 grant from First Book – Long Island for the purpose of purchasing books for Rhame Avenue School.

4. Approve the contract with Rolling River Day School and Camp for the rental of parking spaces for the 2013 summer camp season and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract.

5. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that approval is hereby granted to enter into agreement with the following individuals/firms for student related services, as indicated, in the Requests for Proposal published in Newsday on April 1, 2013, for the 2013-2014 school year, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting service

contracts on behalf of the Board of Education.

PROVIDERS: Access 7 Services, Inc.; All About Kids; Bilinguals Inc. DBA Achieve Beyond; Blue Sea Educational Consulting, Inc.; Career & Employment Options, Inc.; Carina Hamel; Creative Tutoring, Inc.; Helping Hands Children Services; Horizon Healthcare Staffing; Islip Tutoring Services, Inc.; Kids First Evaluation & Advocacy Center, Inc.; Marion K. Salomon & Associates, Inc.; Metro Therapy, Inc.; New York Therapy Placement Services, Inc.; Onward Healthcare, Inc.; Dr. Caryl Oris, M.D.; St. James Tutoring, Inc.; Syosset Home Tutoring, Inc.; Team Therapy Placement Therapy Services, Inc.; Top Grade; Variety Child Learning Center.

6. Approve the admission of one Freeport UFSD student, Student I.D. No. 1000452, to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2012- 2013 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
7. Approve the admission of two Hewlett Woodmere UFSD students, Student I.D. Nos. 14209 and 18028 to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2012- 2013 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
8. Approve the Revenue Anticipation Note Resolution of East Rockaway Union Free School District, New York, adopted April 16, 2013, authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$8,000,000 revenue anticipation notes in anticipation of the receipt of moneys from the United States of America acting through the Federal Emergency Management Administration on account of storm-related damage, more fully set forth on Attachment "A."
9. Accept the Corrective Action Plan as addressing the recommendations of R.S. Abrams, LLP regarding the External Audit for the fiscal year 2011-2012.
10. Approve the budget to be presented for public vote on May 21, 2013, in the amount of Thirty-Six Million, Eight Hundred Forty-Three Thousand, Four Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$36,843,428.00).

11. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOVLED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD approves the real property tax report card prepared by the district's business office for the 2013 Annual District Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said report card shall be submitted to the State Education Department by the end of the next business day following this approval.

12. Approve the contract for consultation services with Nancy Nunziata, Pupil Transportation Consultant, for the period July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education, a participant in the Southwest Quadrant Transportation consortium.
13. Approve the contract dated May 30, 2013, with Stuyvesant Energy L.L.C. d/b/a Hess Small Business Services, HESS Corporation, as the natural gas service provider for the period July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

14. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway Union Free School District, the Island Park Union Free School District and the Oceanside Union Free School District wish to jointly and cooperatively solicit bids for the purchase of various commodities and/or services in connection with their school breakfast and/or lunch programs (“Food Services”) for the 2013-2014 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned public school districts have determined that it would be in their best financial interests to join together for the purpose of forming a Cooperative (hereinafter, the “Cooperative”) to procure said Food Services on a cooperative basis; and

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway Union Free School District desires to enter into an intermunicipal cooperative agreement pursuant to New York General Municipal Law (“GML”) section 119-o for the purpose of soliciting competitive bids for said Food Services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the East Rockaway Union Free School District to join the Cooperative and hereby authorizes and appoints the Oceanside Union Free School District to act as the Lead Participant for purposes of facilitating and coordinating the solicitation of competitive bids for said Food Services, in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Intermunicipal Cooperative Food Services Agreement attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the Intermunicipal Cooperative Food Services Agreement attached hereto and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

15. Approve the participation of East Rockaway School District in the cooperative bid conducted by Garden City Schools on behalf of the participating school districts for

automotive supplies, materials, parts as more fully set forth on the attached resolution and authorize the District Clerk to file the resolution with Garden City UFSD.

16. Approve the following resolution for the purpose of participating in a Cooperative Bid for Investigative Services for School Year 2013-2014:

WHEREAS, the Boards of Education of Baldwin UFSD, East Rockaway UFSD, Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD, Island Park UFSD, Valley Stream CHSD, West Hempstead UFSD desire to participate in a Cooperative Bid during the 2013-2014 school year as authorized by General Municipal Law Section 119-o, the Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD Board of Education through its Assistant Superintendent of Business, or designee, has assumed responsibility for drafting specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, and reporting the results for each of the respective bids to the participating Boards of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance & Operations or designee, on behalf of the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD, be and hereby is authorized to participate in cooperative bidding in conjunction with the Boards of Education of Baldwin UFSD, Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD, Island Park UFSD, Valley Stream CHSD, and West Hempstead UFSD for the Cooperative Bid for Investigative Services. Any award of any contract pursuant to this Cooperative Bid will be made by the respective Board of Education in cooperation with the participating districts.

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Linda Schmidt, the Board of Education unanimously approves the following budget transfers:

- a. Transaction No. 13-0005

- D. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the Board of Education unanimously approves the CSE Recommendations.

- E. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the Board of Educations unanimously approves the CPSE Recommendations

6. Policy Matters

1. For Review

- a. 2270, School Attorney
- b. 2520, Board Member Training

- c. 9420, Staff Evaluation
- d. 9700, Staff Development

7. Superintendent's Report

Thank you to Mr. Piccarella for his presentation and for trying to demystify the new common core assessments. This information will be posted on our website.

Here's what's happening in our schools.

As mentioned, the students in grades 3-8 began the state assessments today. The district's position on the assessments is that the students will come to school and take the assessment.

The results are used to plan improvements for our instructional program as well as to address individual student needs.

Some of the novels being read at Rhame this month include: Chocolate Fever; The Tale of Despereaux; Shiloh; The River; and Maniac Magee. Parents, please consider reading along with your child and discussing the story.

At Rhame Avenue, students participated in a Principal's Challenge persuasive essay contest sponsored by the Long Island Game Farm and they won an assembly with Nature Nick and ten of the animals from the Game Farm. The program is scheduled for May 31st.

In physical education classes at the elementary schools this month, students are working on basketball skills.

In elementary music classrooms this month students are studying the technique of improvisation as it relates to Jazz.

Our SEL curriculum this month includes the following words: Centre Avenue 6th grade--devastated and impulsive; Rhame Avenue 6th grade--cooperation, impulsive, and attitude. Also from our SEL activities, on March 15th, the Rhame Ave S.A.D.D. group, along with two chosen 6th grade students exemplifying SEL, delivered supplies that were originally donated to Rhame Avenue, to the Bethany Church.

The instructional supervision team completed four sessions of supervision training at BOCES. This team includes principals, assistant principals, chair people, directors and the superintendent. We have met as a district team to talk about what we learned and how that enhances our practice as supervisors of instruction.

We are making progress at the High School. We plan to reopen on Monday, April 29th. Tomorrow is a second walk-through to measure the progress. The carpet in the auditorium is finished; emergency exit lighting was replaced in the 2008 wing; the floor installation has been completed in the small gym and we are waiting for the wall pads to be installed; the big gym will be finished within the next two weeks; new doors and flooring have been installed in the tech building and we are waiting to complete the wiring for telephones and computer drops; some kitchen equipment has arrived and the installation has begun; the cafeteria is completed and we are waiting for new tables; the sprinkler system on the field is in the process of being repaired.

At Rhame Avenue the sidewalk work is finished, softball field maintenance has been completed and the field has been groomed.

At Centre Avenue the baseball field was completed by adding sand and clay. Many thanks to Mike Cilluffo and the East Rockaway Little League for donating clay. Indoor

security cameras have been installed at Centre.

At the HS, Ms. Hecht and Mrs. Katzman are conducting post high school and graduation planning sessions with seniors in classroom sessions. Also, our students had very successful visits to Quinnipiac University and St. John's University. They will visit Farmingdale State and SUNY Old Westbury on Wednesday, April 17. Sixty-one members of the junior class (62%) participated. Mr. O'Driscoll will continue his monthly guidance visits in the 6th grade classrooms during the month of April with sessions that include career exploration activities.

In celebration of Earth Day, the Rhame Avenue Student council will be planning a garbage free lunch on April 22nd.

The Education Foundation Dinner Dance was held at the Stewart Manor Country Club last Friday night. Congratulations to Bob and Maryann Amabile, Lorraine Donlon, Hugh Howard, and Lorraine Liberti, who were honored by the Education Foundation for their contributions to our school and to the community.

The proposed budget has been adopted. The district's proposed budget meets the state tax levy limit at 3.43%. On the ballot will be three propositions: the proposed budget, expenditures from the facilities reserve, and expenditures from the technology reserve. Please visit our website for details on the budget. Mark your calendars for the annual budget hearing, which we expect to be held in the High School Auditorium, on Thursday, May 9th at 7:30.

There are at least three people running for two Board of Education seats and therefore we will be hosting an opportunity for you to meet the candidates. We are waiting to hear back from the League of Women's Voters regarding their availability to facilitate this event.

Rhame Avenue has been adopted by yet another caring school! Students and parents from The East School in Connecticut pledged a penny for every minute they read during the past few weeks. They visited Rhame Avenue yesterday to deliver supplies and we understand that they will also be sending us the proceeds from their fundraising activities.

A grant from the Education Foundation has upgraded the equipment for newscasters. Classroom teachers at Rhame and Centre can now view the school news on their SMARTboards. Plans for the future include pre-recorded musical presentations and news from locations throughout the school. The grant was also given to the HS for the same equipment.

Thank you to everyone for the generous support we continue to receive as we rebuild our schools.

That concludes my report.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Budget Development
- Academic Intervention
- State Testing

9. Board Member Comments

John Giannotti, Jr. – Thank you Mr. Piccarella for your presentation. The presentation offered many answers. Thank you for coming.

Linda Schmidt – Mr. Piccarella, thank you for your presentation. Thank you for the donations we are still receiving. This shows we are not forgotten. Thank you to the

administration for getting the kids back to school in six months.

Neil Schloth – I would like to join in with what the other board members have said. Thank you all for bearing with us through the hard times we have been through. Good night.

Kristin Ochtera – Thank you for sharing your thoughts and ideas. Each time you do, it gives us an opportunity to weigh your opinions during the decision making process. Thank you all for coming.

10. Adjournment

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Neil Schloth and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk

